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6,149,522, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 08/981,882 filed on June 17, 1996 (as International Application No. PCT/US96/10463) and entitled "Electronic Casino Gaming System With Improved Play Capacity, Authentication and Security," now U.S. Patent No. 6,106,396, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 08/497,662 filed in the Patent Office on June 29, 1995 and entitled "Electronic Casino Gaming Apparatus With Improved Play Capacity, Authentication and Security," now U.S. Patent No. 5,643,086.

REMARKS

The specification is being amended to add specific references to a number of prior applications and patents. For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that those references are proper and being made in a timely manner.

The current version of 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2) requires that the specification of a later-filed nonprovisional application which is claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 from a prior application contain, or be amended to contain, a specific reference to the prior application within four months of the filing date of the later-filed application. However, as noted in Section 201.11 of the M.P.E.P.¹ (page 200-65, lower left-hand column), that four-month deadline is only applicable to patent applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Since the present application was filed prior to November 29, 2000, the four-month deadline is not applicable in this case.

The specification has been amended to add the statement that the present application is "a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/107,031 filed in the Patent Office on June 29, 1998 and entitled 'Method of Authenticating Game Data Sets in an Electronic Casino Gaming System,' now U.S. Patent No. 6,149,522" (hereinafter referred to as the '522 patent) and to

¹ All M.P.E.P. cites herein are to the Original Eighth Edition of the M.P.E.P. dated August 2001.